

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 706

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Wayne Crawford for meritorious service to his country and this State.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Crawford has served with courage and gallantry in this nation's military and deserves proper recognition for his heroism; and

WHEREAS, during World War II from September 18, 1942, to September 20, 1945, Staff Sergeant Crawford fought for our country with great bravery and ability in the United States Army Air Corps; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 1943, Wayne Crawford served as a gunner during a mission in which German forces attacked and split his plane in half with ground fire, forcing him to parachute amidst enemy fire to the ground below; his parachute became tangled in a fence and he was knocked unconscious upon landing; and

WHEREAS, although the United States government declared him Missing in Action and then later dead, Staff Sergeant Crawford was held as a prisoner of war by the Germans for more than sixteen months before Allied forces liberated him; and

WHEREAS, a member of this nation's greatest generation, Wayne Crawford was awarded numerous medals for his performance in World War II, including the Distinguished Service Medal and later the Prisoner of War Medal, which was created in 1985; and

WHEREAS, on December 23, 2007, more than sixty years after his ordeal, Mr. Crawford belatedly received the Prisoner of War Medal in recognition of the immense fortitude and bravery with which he endured the harrowing conditions of his capture and imprisonment; and

WHEREAS, after his military service, Mr. Crawford moved to Mt. Juliet to work for the DuPont Company; and

WHEREAS, a tireless public servant, Mr. Crawford has been active in his community in a variety of roles; during his tenure as Mt. Juliet Mayor from 1985 to 1987, he was responsible for the creation and implementation of sewer service for the city. He is also the only surviving founding member of the West Wilson Utility District; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Crawford attends the First Baptist Church of Mt. Juliet, where he has been an active and devout member for more than fifty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crawford is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Garmelia, and their four children, eleven grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Crawford has performed his duties during World War II and thereafter with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism; his service can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Wayne Crawford of Mt. Juliet for meritorious service in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II and offer our thanks for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.